

"GINGER CLUB" IDEA

An Improvement Scheme Started by Business Men.

ITS HELP TO A KANSAS TOWN

Hiawatha Prospering in Face of Evident Disadvantages—How Public Spirit and Consistent Civic Improvement Rescued It From Lethargy.

The merchants of Hiawatha, Kan., have taken up the "ginger club" idea started by Kansas City business men. Those in each block will form a club, and each will try to outdo the other in improvements. The clubs will work with the Civic Improvement club to beautify Hiawatha this summer. The first club to organize is called the Five Hundred Block Oregon Street Improvement club. The officers are:

W. O. Noble, president; H. D. Adams, treasurer, and P. M. Smith, secretary.

The officers form the executive committee, with full power to spend money for necessary improvements. This club is formed in the smallest business block in town. Every business man and woman in the block is a member of the club. They have subscribed \$50 monthly for improvements, says the Kansas City Star. Electric lights have been placed every twenty-five feet along the block, and the lights are kept burning all night. The buildings in the block will be painted a uniform color. Lights will be placed in the alleys and kept burning all night as a protection to property.

The club has made a special sprinkling contract. This summer, and the streets are swept each day. As the streets are not paved the club has induced the city council to put in a cement crossing in the middle of the block, and property owners have agreed to put cement walks in the alleys. The clubs in the other business blocks will work along similar lines.

A civic improvement club has been in existence in Hiawatha for several years. It has done much to beautify the town. Work for this summer has already commenced, and the residents are taking hold with new vigor. The members of the improvement club have adopted the slogan, "Make Hiawatha a beautiful and prosperous town." The members of the club will plant and tend flower beds in the city park, which faces the main business block. The park will be stringed with electric lights this summer. The improvement club will turn a vacant lot near the center of the town into a children's flower garden.

Each year the club offers prizes for the best kept yards, churchyards and school yards, for the best garden planted and tended by a child, for the best garden planted and tended by a man over sixty years old, for the best looking yard kept in order by a woman and for the best flower garden.

Those who are too poor to buy flower seeds—and there are few of them—are furnished with seeds by the club. In the fall a flower show is held, at which the prizes are awarded. The business men and others pay the expenses of the club, and the others give their services. The city council and the board of county commissioners appropriate money toward the support of the club.

The city administration is in hearty sympathy with the town improvement movement. An ordinance has been passed fixing a fine for any person found guilty of spitting on any sidewalk or crossing in the city. After each rain the dirt streets are dragged at the city's expense, and a movement has been started to pave the streets in the business section. City employees cut the weeds along the street, and when weeds are not cut in vacant lots the city officials promise to see that it is done at the expense of the property owner.

Each Wednesday evening during this summer concerts will be given in the city park. The concerts have been given each summer for nearly twenty years. The band is paid by the business men and other residents. The city council contributes each year to the support of the band. In all the band receives nearly \$1,000 a year for expenses. The members are not paid salaries.

The money put into civic improvement has been well spent. There are no big industries in Hiawatha to employ a large number of men; the town is just dependent upon the surrounding country. A few years ago Missouri Pacific division headquarters were located there, but were later moved to Atchison. When the railroad families left, many houses were left vacant, rents went down, and the value of real estate decreased. The pessimists said the town would never recover. The others kept quiet and worked for city improvement. The work of beautifying the town has brought results.

Little Feed.

Student—Something is preying on my mind, Professor W.—It must be very hungry.—Yale Record.

DWARF APPLE TREES.

An Interesting Account of Two Types Used For Stocks.

Unlike the dwarf pear, which is budded or grafted on quince stock, the apple when grown as a dwarf is worked on dwarf forms of the same species. Dwarf and many other curious forms of any plant may appear where many seedlings are grown. The dwarf or bush lima bean may be mentioned as an example. The bloomless or seedless apple, of which so much has been said of late, has appeared at many places, both in the United States and in Europe, as is shown by the literature of horticulture.

Paradise and the Doucin.

There are two types of these dwarf apples which are used for stocks, known as the Paradise and the Doucin. The exact origin of the Paradise apple is not known, as several ancient writers describe different apples under this name or the apple of Adam. One writer describes a variety as the true Paradise, in which the bite of Adam and Eve can be seen. This notion probably comes from a peculiar bluish on one side of the fruit. It is evident that the name has been applied to many different forms, all of which make a tree of about the same height, ranging from six to eight feet.

The origin of the Doucin is more certain. It appears to have originated in Italy and was first brought to notice probably in the sixteenth century. This makes a larger tree than the Paradise, being about midway between the latter and a standard tree, at least as authority in Country Gentlemen. For this reason the Doucin has not been much used as a stock. Nearly all the dwarf apple trees in this country are propagated on the Paradise stock.

Most of the stock is grown in France, where our nurserymen procure their supplies.

The Gentle Rebuff.

"Innumerable are the rebuffs that the helpers of the poor, the seekers after charity for their suffering brothers undergo," said a New York charity organization official. "A friend of mine, a Methodist minister in a small western town, told me the other day of his last rebuff, a not unkind one. Entering the office of the local weekly, the minister said to the editor:

"I am soliciting aid for a gentleman of refinement and intelligence who is in dire need of a little ready money, but who is far too proud a man to make his sufferings known."

"Why," exclaimed the editor, pushing up his eyeglasses, "I'm the only chap in the village who answers that description. What's this gentleman's name?"

"I regret," said the minister, "that I am not at liberty to disclose it."

"Why, it must be me," said the editor. "It is me. It's me, sure. Heaven prosper you, person, in your good work."

An Unburied Picture.

Rossetti secured permission in 1892 to reopen the coffin of his wife in order to secure the manuscripts of some poems which he had buried with her seven years before.

Some such incident might have occurred in connection with J. M. W. Turner if his desire to be buried wrapped up in his own painting of "Carriage" had been carried out. There was some difficulty in selling the painting, and the artist kept the canvas by him. He always said he would be wrapped in it when he was buried and even went so far as to ask Chantrey if as his executor he would fulfill his wishes on that point.

"No doubt," answered the sculptor. "I shall bury you rolled up in your picture if it is one of the conditions of your will, but I would take you up next day and unroll you!"

The Master's Title.

Professor Key when head master of a large London school was one of the most genial gentlemen that ever filled that position. He was fond of encouraging fun in his boys and was not unwilling to recount occasionally during class time when anything prompted the manners and customs of countries he had visited. On one occasion he was telling his class about Spain and said:

"Do you know, boys, that when a man attains to eminence there he is not called 'sir,' but is given the title of 'don'?"

One of the boys here called out: "Then, I suppose, sir, they would call you Don Key?"

The gravity of the class was completely upset for the remainder of the afternoon.—Strand Magazine.

Watch Vacant Lots.

On vacant lots we will soon see a vegetable growth of weeds that will hide tin cans, antiquated bed springs, deceased cats and all manner of evil. It has been observed that on vacant lots where the weeds are kept down few of such objects are thrown, so that property owners close about could well afford if only from a sanitary standpoint to keep the weeds cut down or plowed under.

FOUNDING A HERD.

Individuality the Cornerstone of This Breeder's Policy.

By C. D. HEDGECOCK, Shrewsbury, before Southern Missouri Association.

The most successful corner of progress is not that of the farmer who who to produce it is absolutely necessary that they be honest with themselves. It is therefore best for us to face the truth, cruel and harsh though it may seem, and admit that nonsense has been and is yet a factor along with too prevalent in the Southern breeding operations of this country. Any one doubting this statement will only need to travel through the country and note the per cent of animals which lack individuality, type and character sufficient to distinguish them from scrubs. Some of these nondescripts and misfits are doubtless the result of carelessness and unqualified ignorance in breeding. It might not be advisable to charge all the ills of the breed against the account of nonsense in breeding—in fact, it is no easy task to draw the line sharply defining where sense ends and nonsense begins.

Nonsense in breeding implies wanton violation of natural law and departing from all lines of procedure suggested by the plain, unvarnished principles of plain common sense.

Things Not to Be Done.

On the list of nonsensical things not to do I would print in big letters the injunction, Never mate animals with common defects or weaknesses.

I consider it folly to buy and use a bull simply because he happens to be of a certain color or breeding, of the so called straight this or straight that or anything else except a straight good one.

I further deem it nonsense to use a bull that is not typical of the kind of cattle you aim to produce and bred from ancestors of known merit. It is certainly nonsense to pay more attention to the thirteenth or twenty-sixth great-grandmother than to the makeup of the pedigrees of the first four sires.

Lastly, I think it worse than nonsense to rely wholly upon the pedigree of an imported animal and turn down a well bred American one with well recognized individual makeup, backed up by a line of breeding that has stood the test.

I don't want to be understood as discouraging pedigrees and the careful study thereof, but I do want to impress upon you that it is individuality first, coupled with good breeding, that makes the untroubled animal.

An Artist's Ruse.

A Roman cavalier commissioned a great artist to paint his portrait, no definite price being agreed upon. When the portrait was finished, the painter asked 100 crowns in payment. The highborn sinner, amazed at the demand, returned no more nor dared to send for his counterfeit presentment, whereupon the artist hid upon the happy expedient of first painting bars across the portrait, then affixing the doleful legend, "Imprisoned for debt," and finally placing it in a prominent part of his studio, to which Roman nobles frequently resorted. Ere long a rich relative came to the rescue and released his kinsman.

STEER FEEDING.

Best Rations For Beef Making and For Show Animals.

By FRASER McLAIN.

It seems to be pretty generally conceded that breeding has a strong influence on the chances for profit in feeding steers. The more perfectly the breeding stock fills the beef type the greater are the probabilities of profit in its progeny. At the same time it is not to be denied that good feeding is half the battle, and the most typically beef animals can be brought in debt to the feeder by bad management, while poorer stock by careful treatment can be made to win out.

The art of beef making nowhere gets more painstaking attention than to Great Britain, and Canada follows closely in the same line. At the experiment station of Canada after tests that made use of practically every available feed, both rough and concentrated, the following conclusion was reached.

For Roughage.—Corn ensilage, unbleached and turnips are about equally valuable as the succulent part of the ration. Clover hay and alfalfa rank first as dry, coarse feeds.

For Concentrator corn ranks very high, although gluten meal is probably its equal. Mixed meals give excellent results. Oats 100, bran 100, oilmeal 100, constitutes a very excellent meal mixture.

Unsurpassed Ration.

Much has been done by Professor Orndale in testing the value of various rations for beef production, and he makes this clear statement:

It may be said that for a 1,000 pound steer under full feed the following ration has never been surpassed here either as to palatability or fattening qualities:

	Pounds.
Corn ensilage.....	50
Roots (turnips).....	20
Cut straw (oat).....	2
Clover hay (well cured).....	2
Bran.....	2
Corn (ground).....	4
Oilmeal.....	2

The ensilage, pulped roots, chopped straw and meal all mixed together and fed in equal portions night and morning, part of the hay following each feed of chopped forage.

How Show Steers Are Fed.

Steer feeding as illustrated by its results at the last international live stock show, gives plenty of matter for thought. The grand champion of the show, Roan King, was a grade Short Horn, is said to have allowed him from birth to run with a nurse cow. At the time he won his great honor he was still put away with his foster mother. His grain ration was ground oats and peas, with some mixed hay and turnips or mangels. He never had either corn or bran.

Minnesota's famous Angus steer, Andy, twice the reserve champion of the great show, was carried through the previous summer with pasture at night and a limited ration of corn, bran, oats and a little oilmeal. Later in the season he was given all the grain he would clean up in a hurry, together with mixed clover and timothy hay.

The favorite grain ration among prize winners, on the whole, seemed to be corn, oats and bran and a small amount of oilmeal. Oats are believed to firm the flesh. Ground barley entered into the ration of some of the steers.

When Actors Play to Actors.

"When he (Henry Irving) engaged me to play Ophelia in 1878 he asked me to go down to Birmingham to see the play, and that night I saw what I shall always consider the perfection of acting. It had been wonderful in 1874; in 1878 it was far more wonderful," wrote Ellen Terry in McClure's. "It has been said that when he had the 'advantage' of my Ophelia his Hamlet 'improved.' I don't think so. He was always quite independent of the people with whom he played. The Birmingham night he knew I was there. He played—I say it without vanity—for me. We players are not above that weakness, if it be a weakness. If ever anything inspires us to do our best it is the presence in the audience of some fellow artist who must, in the nature of things, know more completely than any one what we intend, what we do, what we feel. The response from such a member of the audience flies across the footlights to us like a flame. I felt it once when I played Ophelia before Eleanora Duse. I felt that she felt it once when she played Marguerite Clerval 'to me.'"

Montebello to the Front.

The little town of Montebello, our nearest neighbor beyond the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles, is going to dispute with some of our older centers of population for the distinction of having the best planted streets. It has held meetings, decided to plant the whole town plan to uniform species and appointed a good live committee who are even now purchasing the 1,500 trees necessary to make a complete job of the vast Montebello tract, says the Los Angeles Times. When this gigantic co-operative plan has seen a few years' active growth, there will be found an object lesson on the value of uniform street tree planting which will have no superior in southern California.

Educational Methods in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin highway officials are infusing modernity into their methods for educating the public on road building. Arthur R. Hirst, state highway engineer, is the author of a series of booklets designed for popular distribution which treat in an extremely lucid manner of the fundamental principles of road construction and maintenance. The first four numbers treat respectively of earth roads, the earth road drag, stone and gravel roads and culverts and bridges. Supplementing these a course has been offered in a correspondence study department of the University of Wisconsin consisting of sixteen lessons which is open to those interested in the subject. And the university has also issued a bulletin explaining the methods of state aid in the different states and offers to supply material for argument pro and con on each method in an effort to induce debating societies to discuss the question and thus familiarize their members with the topic.

CHRISTMAS GOODS

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